

a glass of the tisan; an hour afterwards, the opiate with another glass; in the evening the same routine.

The duration of this treatment varies from 30 to 50 days. The enormous quantity (36 grains) of corrosive sublimate contained in the pills might render us apprehensive of some accidents, if we were not aware that its properties were destroyed by being rubbed up with the metallic mercury. It has never been known to produce any unpleasant effects. However extraordinary this mode of treatment may appear to be, M. Payen, whose account of it we transcribe, assures us that it is regarded, at the Marseilles' Hospital as the most sure and efficacious in all cases where the constitution is deeply affected; whenever ill-conditional ulcers exist in the throat, with caries of the bones, &c.; and particularly whenever the ordinary treatment of syphilis has failed. M. Payen relates three remarkable cases of constitutional lues which were cured by the Arabic method, after every other mode had been tried without success.—*L'Expérience*, No. 129, 1839.

VACCINATION AND RE-VACCINATION.

In a Memoir recently published by Professor Otto, of Copenhagen, we find the following remarks on Vaccination, which completely coincide with the views not long since developed in *THE LANCET* :—

Copenhagen is extremely subject to epidemic diseases, and, during the last few years, to small-pox. From the various observations which he has made during these epidemic attacks, Professor Otto concludes, 1. That the vaccine virus has lost nothing of its original force. 2. That a child cannot be vaccinated too soon after birth. 3. That the protective influence of the vaccine virus gradually diminishes with time; in some, perhaps in the greater part of those vaccinated, it is lost after a certain lapse of years. 4. The nature of the cicatrix does not enable us to determine how far the disease will be modified. 5. Small-pox, when it occurs in the vaccinated, is always modified, and the more so, the younger the person is. 6. Regular variola, in the vaccinated, only appeared in persons who had passed the age of fourteen. 7. Out of ten vaccinated persons who died, none had passed the age of twenty-three. 8. Not a single case of small-pox had, as yet, occurred in the re-vaccinated.—*Rust's Mag.*, and *L'Expérience*, No. 128, 1839.

We recommend the above conclusions of their correspondent to the attention of the Committee of the "Provincial Medical and Surgical."

THERAPEUTICAL ACTION OF PRUSSIC ACID.

In our last Number we related the results of some experiments, which have recently been made in the French hospitals with Prussic acid. The following contains a summary of M. Bequerel's researches :—

In diseases of the heart the use of Prussic acid was more injurious than useful, as it sometimes increased the distressing symptoms.

The anhydrous acid, prepared after the manner of Gea-Pessina, is the only one which should be employed medicinally: it keeps for a long time without being altered, and its action is uniform.

It should be given in a mixture of four ounces of water without sugar, and by spoonfuls. Uniformity in the strength of the doses is thus obtained.

When given in the dose of from 8 to 12 drops this acid acts locally, and with intermissions; but when carried to 16 or 20 drops, and continued for a certain time, its action is general and not intermittent: it is essentially hyposthenic.

In larger doses than those just mentioned Prussic acid is apt to occasion certain accidents, the chief symptoms of which consist in a violent excitement of the nervous and circulating systems.

It has no influence on the progress or symptoms of any disease; but in some nervous affections it may change the progress, intensity, and nature of the symptoms, without bringing about a complete cure.—*Gaz. Med. de Paris*, Jan. 13, 1840.

WATERY SOLUTION OF OPIUM IN VENEREAL EXCRESCENCES.

M. Venot, of the Venereal Hospital, Bordeaux, having been disappointed in the various remedies which he had employed for the treatment of venereal vegetations, determined to try the efficacy of the narcotic lotions, recommended by M. Desruelles. His experiments were most successful, and from them he draws the following conclusions :—

1. The solution of opium should be fresh and concentrated, an ounce of water containing at least one drachm and a half of opium.

2. The white dry epidermoid vegetations do not yield so readily.

3. All cases of mucous vegetations, moist warts, condylomata, &c., are almost certainly cured by the watery extract of opium, especially if employed after general treatment.

4. The local action of the remedy is manifested in the following manner:—the vegetations dry up, become pale, then yellow, brown, and finally waste away.

5. This action, which is evidently poisonous, may extend to the healthy parts and determine certain accidents, against which the physician must be on his guard.—*Ibid. l.c.*

CHLORIDE OF SODIUM IN SCROFULA.

M. A. Latour speaks highly of the utility of this remedy in scrofula or pulmonary consumption. The following case is illustrative of its effects:—

A girl, 13 years of age, of lymphatic temperament, suffered, for more than a year, under scrofulous symptoms; the sub-maxillary ganglia were greatly enlarged, and the upper lip was the seat of an extensive scrofulous ulceration, for which a variety of remedies had been tried during eleven months without benefit.

On the 9th of April a drachm of sea-salt was given in soup, and ordered to be continued daily. The sore was washed with salt-water, and the diet was confined entirely to animal food. The re-action produced by the salt was so great that the dose was diminished by one half, and then continued at that dose. The child took frequent exercise in the open air. Towards the middle of May the ulcer was healed, and in fifty days a complete cure was obtained. M. Latour recommends that the salt should be given in flour, made up in the form of a little French roll.

Thus a drachm of salt, dissolved in a small quantity of water, may be mixed with four ounces of flour. Children will readily eat one or two of these rolls in the day.—*L'Expérience*, Jan. 9, 1840.

STATISTICAL RESEARCHES ON PNEUMONIA.

M. Pelletan, *chef de clinique* of M. Bouillaud, has carefully analysed 75 cases of pneumonia which he observed in the hospital of La Charité during the years 1834, 1835, and 1836. The following deductions may be drawn from these cases:—

Single pneumonia (i. e. affecting one side of the chest only) is more frequent than double pneumonia, in the proportion of 7 to 2. In the 75 cases the right lung was more frequently attacked than the left one, in the proportion of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. The base of the lung was more frequently attacked than the apex, in the proportion of 3 to 2. Men were more frequently attacked than women, in the proportion of 10 to 1. The influence of exposure to cold, as an exciting cause, was found to exist in 7-9th's of the cases. The frequency of the pulse gave no exact indication of the progress of the disease; on the contrary, the frequency of the respiration seemed to measure exactly the degree and danger of the malady.

Prostration of strength and delirium more frequently existed with pneumonia of the apex, than of the base. As for the treatment the greatest benefit was derived from bleeding *coup sur coup*. Only two deaths occurred in 55 cases of simple pneumonia, and the duration of the disease was manifestly abridged. Blisters were of little

service in adults; sometimes useful in children, but of very great benefit in old people.—*Gaz. Med.* Jan. 11, 1840.

NEW JOURNAL.

M. Jules Guérin, the talented editor of the French "Medical Gazette," is about to establish a journal, to be specially dedicated to deformities. M. Guérin has been recently added to the staff of the Childrens' Hospital, where he delivers a series of clinical lectures on deformities of the osseous and muscular systems.

An anonymous correspondent has forwarded to us some printed documents from Edinburgh, in eulogy of Dr. E. KENNEDY, as a Teacher of Midwifery. The election for the Professorship of Midwifery takes place on Tuesday next. We learn that Mr. J. Y. SIMPSON is likely to receive a majority of the suffrages of the electors.

The Petition of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION on Parliamentary Reform, having recently appeared in our columns, before its revision, we this week give a correct copy of that document, at page 707.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To several Dublin Correspondents we must reply, generally, that we are perfectly conversant with the medical affairs and politics of that capital, and will afford the parties to whom this fact may not be particularly interesting an early opportunity of being assured that their anti-reform intrigues and proceedings are well understood in London. By-the-by, we find the Editors of the "Dublin Medical Press" announcing, that they have received "a distinct, undisguised, and unequivocal intimation, both verbally and in writing, that if they continue their exertions in favour of Medical Reform, or persevere in the exposure of abuses, effectual means will be resorted to, either to deprive them of their Professorships, or break up the School of the College of Surgeons." The Editors add, that they treat this attempt at coercion "with the contempt it deserves" and "set at defiance the power, if it exist, proposed to be exercised." The intimation must be anonymous, or the "writing" would surely be published. Under either circumstance, the threat is not unlike a hoax, so powerless for evil, however annoying they may be, are the opponents of reform in the Irish capital.

Querist.—He is not "liable to an action," but his neighbours, being professional men, will look pretty sharp after his professional misdeeds and misdemeanors. An M.R.C.S. must also be a L.A.C. if he wishes to practise medicine, generally, with impunity as regards the law.